

Erie County Technical School

Director's Report

April 2010

Recruitment & Retention Update

The bulk of activity in April has been the process of accepting new students for the 2010-2011 school year. Our admissions coordinator, Lisa Sorensen, has worked with guidance counselors in each district on which students will be accepted. Letters of acceptance were mailed to each new student earlier in the month (sample in supplemental materials). Mrs. Sorensen also scheduled 'welcome visits' at each district between April 8 and April 16. At the welcome visit, the director and admissions coordinator greeted and congratulated each student on their acceptance. Each student also received a book bag as a small welcome gift.

The director was especially impressed with the enthusiasm and anticipation of the new students. Many of the students thanked us for visiting their schools and greeting them. Overall, it looks like a very capable group of students headed for ECTS in 2010-2011.

Graduate Follow-up

We have decided to contract with a company to conduct follow-up surveys with our graduates. Starting with the Class of 2010, LifeTrack Services of Clarkston, WA will survey our graduates three times over a five-year period (senior exit survey, one year after graduation and five years after graduation). They will also send 'keeping in touch' letters on the years when surveys are not conducted. To establish a benchmark for the survey data, we are also contracting with LifeTrack to survey the Class of 2009 at the one-year point.

The cost of the five-year survey program is approximately \$3,200 annually. We will use our Perkins funds to underwrite this effort. The school receives a report after each survey. The company was recommended by Franklin County Career Center and General McLane High School.

Best Practices Profile

ECTS will be one of five CTCs in Pennsylvania featured as a 'best practices' school sponsored by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of Career and Technical Education. The Meeder Consulting Group, LLC of Columbia, MD., composed the profiles. Best practices noted in the profile were:

- Prioritize student learning through collaborative CTE/academic integration with a focus on numeracy and literacy
- Create a standardized and aligned curriculum

- Implement extensive student support and guidance
- Create active supports for special needs students
- Set high expectations for students and staff
- Cultivate relationships with community and business & industry partners
- Make program and instructional decisions based on data

NOCTI Case Study

ECTS was also featured as a best practices case study by the National Occupational Competency Testing Institute (NOCTI) and the National Research Center for Career and Technical Education for our technical assessment and data analysis practices. Amongst several things, the case study highlighted our analysis of annual and longitudinal NOCTI data for program improvement. The case study can be found in the supplemental materials section of the agenda.

Director's Travel and Meetings

The director's recent and scheduled meetings include:

- *Meeting with Mr. William Hall, Asst. Superintendent, Millcreek Township School District; March 31; with Joe Tarasovitch; general discussion about ECTS*
- *Classified Unit Negotiations; ECTS, April 7*
- *2+2+2 Grant Planning; ECTS, April 8; with Steve Preston, Precision Manufacturing Institute; planning for grant to support dual enrollment and articulation in the area of mechatronics*
- *Union City School District Board Meeting; ECTS, April 12; hosted monthly school board meeting and toured Transition Center*
- *NWPA Workforce Investment Board Strategic Planning Meeting; Erie, April 13*
- *Erie Regional Chamber and Growth Partnership Meeting; Erie, April 15; presentation of financial pro forma for proposed community college*
- *Meet & Discuss—ECTS Federation of Teachers; April 16; regular monthly meeting of administrators and federation officers*
- *General McLane School District Board Meeting; ECTS, April 21; hosted monthly school board meeting and toured Transition Center*
- *Pennsylvania Schools Boards Association, Board of Directors Meeting; Harrisburg, April 24-25; PACTA representative to PSBA board meetings*
- *Tech Prep Consortium Meeting; Meadville, April 27; quarterly meeting of CTCs in region participating in Tech Prep programming*
- *Classified Unit Negotiations; ECTS; April 27*